(c) The following benefits have accrued after installation of modern navigational/landing aids:

(i) Increase in the handling capacity of airspace and airport.

(ii) Enhanced safety.

(iii) Reduction in delays in flights.

(iv) Savings of fuel and thus minimising adverse affect on environment.

(v) Uninterrupted operation of flights through airports during the periods of poor visibility.

(vi) Monitoring of aircraft movements in avoiding over-flying over the restricted and prohibited areas.

(vii) More effective and efficient monitoring of runways during periods of poor visibility.

(d) 1. Domestic charter flights are accepted at all operational airports.

2. International chartered flights are accepted at all international & customs airports, and

3. In the last three years, following airports have been made operational and are fit for accommodating chartered and scheduled flights:-

AAI Airports/Civil Enclaves:

Dehradun, Dharamshala, Kolhapur, Rajahmundary, Tuticorin, Kanpur (Civil Enclave),

Shimla, Surat, Jaisalmer (Civil Enclave)

Non-AAI airports:

Kandla, Vidyanagar, Latur, Jamshedpur, Nanded, Nasik

(e) and (f) Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars have been installed at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Trivandrum, Guwahati, Nagpur, Mangalore, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Behrampur and Varanasi, by AAI, at a cost of Rs.229 crore.

State-of-the-Art Radars are proposed to be installed at Jodhpur, Vizag, Raiganj, Bhopal, Jharsuguda, Porbander, Bellary, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Amritsar and Cochin.

An amount of approximately Rs.351 crores is likely to be spent on the installation of the same.

MSSR provides position, distance, callsign and altitude of the aircraft and data link between controller and pilot. It also provides seamless surveillance over territorial airspace by filling the radar coverage gaps for smooth and efficient air-traffic flow.

Declaration of Ganga as National River

†*303. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the steps being taken by Government to give practical shape to the declaration of the Ganga as the National River;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to stop some ongoing projects; and

(c) the measures being initiated to get public cooperation in order to make this plan successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (c) The Central Government has initiated an exercise for revamping the river conservation strategy with an aim to promote a holistic and integrated approach of river basin planning. The process for setting up a River Basin Authority for River Ganga as an empowered, planning, implementing & monitoring Authority, vested with appropriate powers has been initiated in consultation with the Central Ministries and the State Governments.

(b) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) to stop ongoing projects. However, taking note of the concerns raised by some NGO's regarding construction of Hydro Power Schemes on the river Ganga, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has constituted a High Level Expert Group to examine the various issues involved. The State Government of Uttarakhand has reportedly put on hold two hydro power projects namely Bhaironghati and Pala Maneri.

Impact of terrorism on tourist arrival in India

*304. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
DR. V. MAITREYAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present level of tourist arrivals in the country;

(b) what is the corresponding figures during the last year;

(c) whether the arrival of tourists has been severely affected due to the security problem in the country on account of terrorists activities in the country; and

(d) what serious measures are being contemplated to improve the security in the country to facilitate the tourist arrivals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January-November 2008 is estimated at 4.84 million, which is higher than the FTAs of 4.48 million during January-November 2007. However, the growth rate in FTAs during January-November 2008 over the corresponding period of 2007 is only 8% as compared to growth rate of 14.8% in FTAs during January-November 2007 over the corresponding period of 2006. The lower growth rate in 2008 may be due to various reasons including the global financial meltdown and terrorist activities. To minimize the negative impact of recent terrorist attacks on tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has undertaken the following confidence building measures:-

- All States have been requested to beef up security measures in hotels and at tourist sites in their respective States;